

1400, 19 July 1965

VULNERABILITY ESTIMATE FOR MISSION C395C

CONCLUSION:

There are no known surface-to-air missile defenses on Hainan Island capable of interfering with Mission C395C. MIG-21 aircraft from Suichi pose a threat to this mission.

GENERAL:

The MIG-15, 17, and 19 do not present a threat to the U-2 at 70,000 feet. Of these three fighter types, none can cruise supersonic. The MIG-19 can exceed Mach 1, perform a dynamic climb to approximately 62,000 feet and cruise subsonic, steady state at 59,000 plus or minus 1000 feet. The MIG-19 does not have sufficient power to perform an effective ZOOM maneuver.

The MIG-21 has the capability of intercepting the U-2 at 70,000 feet by performing a ZOOM maneuver and launching an AA-2 Sidewinder type IR missile.

AIR ORDER OF BATTLE FOR SOUTH CHINA:

There are three airfields in this area pertinent to Mission C395C. They are Haikou, Suichi and Lingshui. [redacted]

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[redacted] MIG-19's are located at Haikou and Suichi.

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Based on the latest photography [redacted] we estimate approximately two MIG-21's to be based at Suichi. Of this number we estimate two MIG-21 to be on strip alert and within range of Mission C395C. If this assumption is correct, MIG-21's do present a threat to the mission aircraft at operational altitude. Red Chinese fighters have penetrated international waters in the past and we must assume they will continue to intercept reconnaissance flights in the future.

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A request for a SAM search thirty nautical miles either side of planned track has been levied on NPIC. The results were negative and copies of the request and results may be found elsewhere in this report.

REQUIREMENT: STATED IN COMOR 25/142 OF FEB 1965.

APPROVED BY USIB 3 MARCH 1965.

REQUIREMENT FOR IMMEDIATE COVERAGE OF
28 TARGETS IN SOUTH CHINA AND SUBSEQUENTLY
OBTAIN WEEKLY COVERAGE OF A REPRESENTATIVE
ONE-QUARTER OF THESE TARGETS. IN ADDITION,
USIB ON 12 MAY APPROVED URGENT COVERAGE OF
PING HSIANG AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TARGET
IN SOUTH CHINA

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APPROVAL: 303 COMMITTEE APPROVED NRO FORECAST FOR
JULY 1965.